

The background checks performed under the Brady Act have proven to be a vital part of our nation's crime control efforts. Since its enactment, the Brady Act has prevented more than 650,000 felons, fugitives and other prohibited persons from purchasing handguns. The IACP believes that no action should be taken that would damage the demonstrated effectiveness of the current background check system.

Thank you for considering our views on this matter.

Sincerely,

BRUCE D. GLASSCOCK,

President.

It is important to note that the letters from the FBI Agents Association and the International Association of Chiefs of Police both indicate that they are not aware of any allegations of misuse of the information retained in the gun purchase records.

There is another concern which I am compelled to share regarding the public safety aspect of allowing law enforcement personnel the necessary time needed to track down would-be criminals who try to purchase guns. I also enclose for the RECORD an FBI report on the growing violent gang activity, not only in the District of Columbia and the northern Virginia region, but across our nation. It is sobering. This is a very serious—and growing—problem. While the FBI report focuses specifically on Mara Salvatrucha, more commonly known as MS-13, numerous gangs have been infiltrating our country in recent years and indications are that few communities are spared.

Gang members thrive on terrorizing communities through random acts of violence. They steal. They kidnap. They extort. They torture. They murder. Obtaining guns and other weapons are part and parcel of their operations.

While we may not know for certain how the 24-hour records destruction provision will impact criminal gang members who are terrorizing innocent people in northern Virginia and other areas of the country, law enforcement officers on the front lines of fighting crime certainly have a strong belief that reducing the time to check for illegal gun purchases could hurt their ability to protect public safety.

In these times of fighting not only international terrorism but violent gang activities in our local communities, shouldn't we be making public policy that gives law enforcement personnel the assistance they need to thwart the gun purchases of suspected terrorists and gang members rather than giving the advantage to the criminals?

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
Washington, DC, November 12, 2003
MARA SALVATRUCHA 13

Mara Salvatrucha 13, commonly referred to as "MS," "MS-13," "MSX3," or "MSXIII," was designated as a National Gang Strategy priority target group of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1997 due to its propensity for violence and rapid growth. Originally composed of individuals of El Salvadorian heritage, MS-13 now consists of numerous, loosely affiliated autonomous cliques, some of which are highly structured and organized, while most are loose knit with very little formal structure. Although MS groups generally function independently of each other, they pose a serious threat in the United States and abroad due to their propensity for extreme random violence and involvement in myriad criminal activities. The level of criminal sophistication and networking by certain clique members will have direct impact on the types and complexity of

the crimes committed by that clique. MS-13 cliques will engage in varying degrees of drug trafficking, theft, prostitution, and violent criminal activity such as murder, extortion, kidnapping, and drive-by shootings to support their criminal activity and protect their turf from rival gangs. Violence is an intimate part of being a gang member. Some MS-13 members have conducted counter-surveillance on law enforcement personnel to obtain license plate numbers of officers' vehicles.

MS-13 has greatly expanded from its origins in southern California. Migration of MS-13 gang members, based on several factors, has resulted in the emergence of MS-13 cliques in numerous jurisdictions across this country. In 1992-93, MS cliques were established in Los Angeles, Northern Virginia, and Long Island, New York. Today, MS-13 cliques have been confirmed or suspected of operating in at least 31 states and the District of Columbia with an estimated 8000 members. In the mid-1990s, MS-13 members who were deported from the United States, established cliques in El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala. Today, in El Salvador and Honduras alone, an estimated 50,000-70,000 gang members are divided into two major gangs, MS-13 and 18th Street. These gangs pose the greatest criminal threat in each country.

Over the past several years, MS-13 has grown significantly on the East Coast. Many jurisdictions throughout the Washington, DC, metropolitan region, have reported MS-13 members involved in criminal activity. In 1992, three MS-13 gang members from Los Angeles, California, were identified in northern Virginia by law enforcement authorities. Today, an estimated 30 MS-13 cliques and 3000 gang members are active throughout the region. The greater Washington, DC area, and specifically northern Virginia, is now a major hub of MS-13 gang activity. Fairfax County, Virginia, Police Department reports that MS-13 is responsible for, or suspected of, 95 percent of all gang-related crimes (armed robbery, theft, car theft, drug dealing, rape, shootings, and assaults with a baseball bats, knives, and machetes, etc.) committed in the county.

Heavy concentrations of MS-13 cliques have been documented in Long Island, New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and North Carolina. Travel by MS-13 members between these regions, as well as to and from Texas, California, and other regions, has been documented. MS-13 gang members travel to other communities to support and participate in MS-13 gang activities, to flee prosecution in criminal investigations, and for social and fraternal motives. Approximately 30-40 MS-13 gang members from Massachusetts moved into the Lakewood, New Jersey area and established a clique that appears to be involved in trafficking cocaine and weapons. The Washington, DC region, specifically northern Virginia, is a primary destination for MS-13 gang members. In one notable event, MS-13 gang members traveled from northern Virginia to Hempstead, New York, and committed a drive-by shooting. The motive for the shooting was simply to demonstrate to local Hempstead MS-13 cliques the bravado necessary to intimidate and combat rival gangs.

Within the Washington, DC region, formal multiple-clique meetings have occurred in attempts to organize area cliques however, inter-clique disputes have prevented any such coordination, but these meetings enabled relationships to form between members of multiple cliques. In the long term, it is reasonable to predict that this is an evolutionary step towards a more formalized central structure.

MS-13 has specific identification signs, symbols, and rules. However, certain rules

may vary between cliques and may change depending on the situation. One commonality between all MS-13 cliques, in the United States and Central America, is that the gang survives and thrives due to aggressive local recruitment efforts. Growth in numbers and strength is MS-13's primary goal. For instance, MS-13 gang members must have some Latino heritage, however, there are now "farm" cliques associated, with the MS-13 that are not Latino. Cliques include juvenile members. The gang is known to recruit Hispanic juveniles as young as elementary school age for membership.

It is anticipated that recent gang suppression efforts in Central America will increase legal and illegal immigration of MS-13 gang members to communities with existing MS-13 populations in the United States. Based on current trends and patterns of MS-13 activity in the United States and Central America, it is predictable that MS-13 will continue to spread and grow in numbers across this Nation, including the Washington, DC region. Violent crime associated with continued expansion of MS-13 is most predictable.

Only through nationally-focused investigations calling upon Federal law, will there be a cessation to MS-13's continuing growth in America.

HONORING MR. ALFREDO B.
LAGMAY, SR.

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss and honor the life of Mr. Alfredo B. Lagmay, Sr.

Mr. Lagmay was truly one of America's heroes. Mr. Lagmay came to this country from his native Philippines in 1918. He later went on to serve in our armed forces, where he was a prisoner of war (POW), a survivor of the Death March of Bataan, and a veteran of World War II and the Korean War.

After his distinguished 31-year career in the United States Military where he was awarded the Bronze Star, Mr. Lagmay moved with his family to Orange County. Mr. Lagmay was a valued member of the community and served as an inspiration to all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Alfredo Lagmay. I am exceedingly proud to honor him for his courageous service to our country and for the honorable life he led as a husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

IN MEMORIAM OF CPL. ROBERT
"BOBBY" D. ROBERTS

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, it is with the deepest sadness that I report the death of Corporal Robert D. Roberts, a native of Winter Park, Florida, who died in service to our Nation on November 22nd while serving in Iraq.

I extend my deepest sympathy to his widow Jill, his 3 year old son Jacob, and his family. Bobby, as he was affectionately known, died

in a tragic accident as he was fulfilling his military obligation to our Nation.

Cpl. Roberts was a member of the United States Army and served in the position of Tank Gunner. His devotion and commitment to our U.S. Military were legendary among the family members he leaves behind. Prior to his death, he personally reiterated to his family the importance of his mission and his dedication to serving our Nation in this time of international conflict.

I am most saddened to lose this dedicated American soldier, a Winter Park native and the son-in-law of a wonderful friend, Karen Mendenhall. During services that were conducted at the First Baptist Church of Oviedo on Friday, December 5th, Bobby was remembered by his brother and parents as a wonderful member of the family, a devoted Christian and a committed American soldier.

We extend our deepest sympathies to Cpl. Roberts' parents, Chuck and Joann, on the loss of their beloved son. We commend his brother, Lance Corporal Chris Roberts, for his courage and dedicated service in the United States Marine Corps. And to all those in Bobby's family who have suffered this great loss, we give the eternal thanks of a grateful Nation.

TRIBUTE TO CHUCK ANDERSON OF
RAYTHEON

HONORABLE JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a tribute to Charles D. "Chuck" Anderson, Raytheon's Vice President, Air-to-Air Missiles in Tucson, Arizona who is retiring after over 40 years of dedicated and faithful service to the defense of our great Nation.

From the time Chuck was a boy, his patriotic fervor and love of country formed the foundation for all he has accomplished to date. In the 1950s, when the face and ambitions of our American youth began to change, Chuck chose the difficult path and served with the California National Guard as a paratrooper. After his National Guard tour, Chuck selected the toughest, most disciplined course of study earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics and Physics from California State Polytechnic University in 1961. In 1972, he received a Master of Science degree in Systems Engineering at the University of Southern California.

Chuck, the man, is more than just America's premier designer and builder of our most capable weapons. He is a true patriot and champion for the American dream. When asked to perform in the hustle and bustle of Corporate

America, with the ever present hunger for profits and earnings, Chuck always asked one question first, "Is this good for the Warfighter . . . will this save American lives on the battlefield?" By that creed he lives his life, both professionally and personally. During his quarterly, "All Hands" Leadership meetings, Chuck always ended his session with a 30 minute discussion on what it means to be an American. Love of Country, Love of Freedom were always the major themes of his closing comments. This theme in particular, defines Chuck Anderson and serves as the driving force behind this American Patriot.

Apart from his role as America's "Missileman," Chuck took an active leadership role in one of this country's premier Leadership Learning Laboratories, The Boy Scouts of America. As an Adult Leader, Chuck imparted his wealth of lifetime experiences, patriotism, and charismatic leadership to this unique group of American youth. The leaders of tomorrow will long remember Chuck's lessons of life, pursuit of excellence, and responsibility. When he was not paying back to the country he loves, Chuck took time to revel in his two greatest hobbies: flying antique model airplanes and listening to American Rock and Roll. In fact, his knowledge of Rock and Roll is so great, Chuck continues to author numerous missives titled, "This Date in Rock and Roll History."

Chuck Anderson is one of the select few that has consistently given and sacrificed for all that is good for America . . . and the generations of youth he has touched and continues to touch will pass on their strong character and moral fiber for generations to come so that our country remains a beacon of freedom and leadership throughout the world. I am certain that my colleagues will join me in wishing Chuck and his wife Carolyn all the best as they venture into the next chapter of their lives.

RECOGNIZING WORLD AIDS DAY

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Monday, December 1, 2003 as World AIDS Day. Worldwide 42 million people are living with HIV/AIDS, including 3.2 million children under the age of 15. AIDS kills more people worldwide than any other infectious disease and infects 15,000 people each day.

World AIDS Day was established in 1988 to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and tackle the tough issues related to the disease. This year the focus is on stigma and discrimination, two major obstacles in preventing HIV/AIDS.

When people living with HIV/AIDS are discriminated against they are less likely to acknowledge their disease or seek treatment. They may be denied housing, employment, or health care services. We must do everything possible to reduce the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS through worldwide and local efforts.

Congress can fight stigma and discrimination by continuing monetary support for the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. IAVI focuses on accelerating scientific progress, mobilizing public support through issue advocacy and education, encouraging industrial involvement in AIDS vaccine development, and working to ensure global access to a vaccine. I greatly support this program and urge the largest funding amount.

Congress should provide the maximum allowable contribution of \$3 billion to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. The Fund makes grants in developing countries aimed at reducing the number of HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria infections, as well as the illness and death that result from such infections. Over five years, the Fund hopes to fund anti-retroviral therapy for 500,000 patients over five years and to be supporting programs to provide care for 500,000 children orphaned by AIDS.

However, these large international organizations would be meaningless without people at the local level to provide care and support to those living with HIV/AIDS. In Texas, 60,078 people are living with HIV/AIDS, and many groups and individuals are working hard to address their needs.

I would like to recognize the efforts of the following people and organizations for their contributions in combating the AIDS epidemic:

Charlene Doria Ortiz, Executive Director—Center for Health Policy Development; Dr. Fernando Guerra, Director of Health—San Antonio Metropolitan Health District; David Ewell, Executive Director—San Antonio AIDS Foundation; Yolanda Rodriguez Escobar, Director—Mujeres Unidas Contra El SIDA; Pastor E. Butch Seward, Chairman of the Board and Michelle Durham, Executive Director—Black Effort Against the Threat of AIDS (BEAT AIDS, Inc.).

By providing medical care, educational programs, housing and financial assistance, case-workers to help with government benefits, and support groups, these programs help those living with HIV/AIDS get through each day. I am proud to recognize them for their year round and tireless commitment to fighting HIV/AIDS.

We may only recognize World AIDS Day once a year, but by providing adequate funding and support for programs that encourage treatment and education we can create lasting effects on the fight against AIDS.